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Resp. to Final OA of 6/29/06 - Expedited Procedure

Docket No.: 500862001810

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**AUG 29 2006**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): An aerosol composition for delivery of a therapeutic agent to the pulmonary system of a host comprising:

an aerosolized aqueous solution containing a derivative of the therapeutic agent, the derivative comprising the therapeutic agent and a reactive group which has the ability to react *in vivo* with an amino group, hydroxyl group or thiol group on a pulmonary or blood component to form a stable covalent bond.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The aerosol composition of claim 12 further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The aerosol composition of claim 12 wherein said modified therapeutic agent is 2.5-10% by weight.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The aerosol composition of claim 12 wherein said therapeutic agent is an anti-histamine.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): The aerosol composition of claim 15 wherein said therapeutic agent is loratidine.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The aerosol composition of claim 15 wherein said therapeutic agent is cetirizine.

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Claim 18 (Withdrawn): A particulate formulation for delivery of a therapeutic agent to the pulmonary system of a host comprising:

a dispersable dry powder containing a modified therapeutic agent, the modified therapeutic agent comprising the therapeutic agent and a reactive group which has the ability to react *in vivo* with an amino group, hydroxyl group or thiol group on a pulmonary or blood component to form a stable covalent bond.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): The particulate formulation of claim 18 wherein at least 50% of the dry powder is in the form of particles having a diameter of 10 um or less.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The particulate formulation of claim 18 wherein said therapeutic agent is an anti-histamine.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): The particulate formulation of claim 20 wherein said therapeutic agent is loratidine.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): The particulate formulation of claim 20 wherein said therapeutic agent is cetirizine.

Claim 23 (Currently amended): A method of delivering a therapeutic agent to a host comprising the steps of:

obtaining a modified therapeutic agent, the modified therapeutic agent comprising the therapeutic agent and a reactive group which reacts *in vivo* with an amino group, hydroxyl group or thiol group on a fixed pulmonary component to form a stable covalent bond; and

administering the modified therapeutic agent to the pulmonary system of the host, wherein said therapeutic agent covalently bonds to the fixed pulmonary component and is ~~not transferred to the vascular system~~ retained in an airway or tissue of the lung.

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Claim 24 (Original): The method of claim 23 wherein said administering step further comprises the steps of aerosolizing the modified therapeutic agent for inhalation by the host.

Claim 25 (Original): The method of claim 23 wherein said administering step further comprises the steps of dispersing a dry formulation of the modified therapeutic agent for inhalation by the host.

Claim 26 (Original): The method of claim 23 wherein said administering step further comprises the steps of instilling the modified therapeutic agent into the pulmonary system of the host.

Claim 27 (Original): The method of claim 23 wherein said reactive group is a succinimidyl or a maleimido group.

Claims 28-31 (Cancelled)

Claim 32 (Original): The method of claim 23 wherein said reactive group is a maleimido group which is reactive with a thiol group on human serum albumin.

Claim 33 (Original): The method of claim 23 wherein said therapeutic agent is an anti-histamine.

Claim 34 (Original): The method of claim 33 wherein said therapeutic agent is loratidine.

Claim 35 (Original): The method of claim 33 wherein said therapeutic agent is cetirizine.

Claims 36 to 55 (Cancelled)

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Claim 56 (Withdrawn): An aerosol composition for delivery of a therapeutic agent to the pulmonary system of a host comprising an aerosolized aqueous solution containing a modified therapeutic agent conjugated to a pulmonary or blood component; the modified therapeutic agent comprising the therapeutic agent and a reactive group that has reacted with an amino group, hydroxyl group or thiol group on a pulmonary or blood component and formed a stable covalent bond.

Claim 57 (Withdrawn): The aerosol composition of claim 56 wherein said blood component is albumin.

Claim 58 (Withdrawn): The aerosol composition of claim 56 wherein said therapeutic agent is an anti-histamine.

Claim 59 (Withdrawn): The aerosol composition of claim 56 wherein said therapeutic agent is loratidine.

Claim 60 (Withdrawn): The aerosol composition of claim 56 wherein said therapeutic agent is cetirizine.

Claim 61 (Withdrawn): A particulate formulation for delivery of a therapeutic agent to the pulmonary system of a host comprising:

a dispersable dry powder containing a modified therapeutic agent conjugated to a pulmonary or blood component, the modified therapeutic agent comprising the therapeutic agent and a reactive group that has reacted with an amino group, hydroxyl group or thiol group on a pulmonary or blood component and formed a stable covalent bond.

Claim 62 (Withdrawn): The particulate formulation of claim 61 wherein said blood component is albumin.

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Claim 63 (Withdrawn): The particulate formulation of claim 61 wherein said therapeutic agent is an anti-histamine.

Claim 64 (Withdrawn): The particulate formulation of claim 61 wherein said therapeutic agent is loratidine.

Claim 65 (Withdrawn): The particulate formulation of claim 61 wherein said therapeutic agent is cetirizine.

Claim 66 (Currently amended): A method of delivering a therapeutic agent to a host comprising the steps of:

obtaining a conjugate of the therapeutic agent, the conjugate comprising a derivative of the therapeutic agent covalently bonded to an amino group, hydroxyl group or thiol group on a pulmonary component; and

administering the conjugate to the pulmonary system of the host, wherein said conjugate is ~~not transferred to the vascular system~~ retained in an airway or tissue of the lung.

Claim 67 (Previously presented): The method of claim 66 wherein said administering step further comprises the steps of aerosolizing the conjugate of the therapeutic agent for inhalation by the host.

Claim 68 (Previously presented): The method of claim 66 wherein said administering step further comprises the steps of dispersing a dry formulation of the conjugate of the therapeutic agent for inhalation by the host.

Claim 69 (Previously presented): The method of claim 66 wherein said administering step further comprises the steps of instilling the conjugate of the therapeutic agent into the pulmonary system of the host.

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Claim 70 (Previously presented): The method of claim 66 wherein said reactive group is a succinimidyl or a maleimido group.

Claim 71 (Previously presented): The method of claim 66 wherein said reactive group is a maleimido group which is reactive with a thiol group on a pulmonary component.

Claim 72 (Cancelled)

Claim 73 (Previously presented): The method of claim 66 wherein said therapeutic agent is an anti-histamine.

Claim 74 (Previously presented): The method of claim 66 wherein said therapeutic agent is loratidine.

Claim 75 (Previously presented): The method of claim 66 wherein said therapeutic agent is cetirizine.

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